

**Amendments to the Specification and Abstract:**

**Please replace paragraph [0014] on page 3 of the substitute specification and abstract with the following new paragraph [0014].**

**[0014]** The tether pipes are dimensioned to carry the tension from a platform consisting of a nominal pre-tension plus the tension variation due to functional and environmental loads. The pipes are kept empty (i.e., ~~watertight~~ empty and hollow) to reduce the weight and increase buoyancy. The pipes must not only be designed to withstand the loads applied by the platform, but must also be able to resist the hydrostatic pressure from the surrounding sea. This becomes more prominent as the depth and hydrostatic pressure increases. At great depths (in the order of 1,000m) the pipes can no longer be designed to have a neutral buoyancy (a diameter to thickness ratio of about 30). In order to withstand the pressure, the diameter to thickness ratio has to be reduced, which results in added load on the platform.